



CIVIL AIR PATROL NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
LEAD TEAM: Leadership, Education and Development



NCSAs: CAREER EXPLORATIONS FOR CADETS

LESSON PLAN

PREFACE

Format: Informal lecture with testimonials and video clips
Audience: Cadets, seniors, parents
Duration: 30 minutes (can be shortened or lengthened by involving more or fewer testimonials from NCSA graduates)
Materials: Laptop and projector for showing NCSA videos
Handouts: "Today's Cadets, Tomorrow's Aerospace Leaders" booklet

OBJECTIVES

Cognitive Objective (Comprehension): The objective of this lesson is for each student to understand what NCSAs contribute to cadets and America.

Samples of Behavior

1. Describes how activities help cadets explore careers
2. Describes how activities help America develop an aerospace workforce
3. Describes three or more activities offered through the NCSA program

Affective Objective (Valuing): The objective of this lesson is for each student to value NCSAs as worthwhile opportunities to explore careers.

Samples of Behavior

1. Justifies the need for cadets to begin the career exploration process
2. Chooses one or more NCSAs that he or she would like to participate in

ATTENTION

An NCSA graduate opens by relating a simple 2-minute story describing the activity they attended, what they learned, and why it was fun and challenging.

MOTIVATION

National Cadet Special Activities are the most fun, challenging, and rewarding experiences available to CAP cadets. NCSA attendance is at an all-time high. Today you will learn how you can participate in [the activity described earlier] or another career exploration program that excites you even more.

OVERVIEW

Today we will look at three aspects of the National Cadet Special Activities program in depth, and have plenty of time for your questions:

1. First, we'll answer the question "Why does CAP offer NCSAs?"
2. Second, we'll investigate many of the activities, learning about them from short videos and testimonials from graduates.
3. Third, we'll review the application procedures, details about costs, dates and locations, and where you can go for complete information.

LESSON BODY

MAIN POINT 1

National Cadet Special Activities are worthwhile to cadets and America.

Lead-Off Question: Why does CAP offer National Cadet Special Activities?

Anticipated Responses:

- a. They make aerospace and leadership real, bridging the gap between theory and practice.
- b. Cadets can test-drive a career. They can decide if one of their interests really is a good match for them.
- c. The activities enable cadets to see technology, visit unique places, and meet experts in their field – opportunities unavailable to them at the local level.
- d. America needs today's young air and space enthusiasts to become tomorrow's aerospace professionals.

Note: These points are discussed in the lead article in the "Today's Cadets, Tomorrow's Aerospace Leaders" booklet.

MAIN POINT 2

NCSAs enable cadets to explore careers in aviation, the Air Force, technology, and leadership – there's something for everyone.

Note: The steps below require some pre-planning and coordination with NCSA graduates from the local area. The NCSAs are presented best via testimonials coupled with video clips.

- a. In turn, ask each graduate to explain where they went and what they did at the activity. What was fun and challenging about it? What did they learn? Why did they choose to attend that activity and did they get out of it what they hoped for? Follow each testimonial with the NCSA's video.
- b. As the seminar leader, ensure that at least one activity from each of the four major NCSA categories is profiled (aviation, Air Force, technology, and leadership). If a graduate from one of those areas is not available, be prepared to complete "A" above in their absence.

MAIN POINT 3

Cadets and parents can learn more about application procedures, fees, and other details on the Web and in the "Today's Cadets, Tomorrow's Aerospace Leaders" booklet.

Call the audience's attention to the back page of the booklet. Encourage cadets to share the booklet with their parents, and visit the cadet website to learn more.

	<p>Some practical advice about the application process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If your wing requires you to interview before a review board, have something to say. Be prepared to explain why you want to attend the activity, how it fits into your life goals, and why you are deserving of a slot. Historically, COS and IACE must be your top choices if you want to attend either of those highly-competitive activities. It is possible to attend both during the same summer. The activities with the largest number of slots are the easiest to get into. For example, Hawk Mountain can accept virtually an unlimited number of cadets, whereas E-Tech is limited to twenty cadets. As you rank-order your selections, consider placing the activity that has the fewest number of slots at the top of your list if you really want to attend that event. Many civic organizations will provide scholarships to cadets, but obtaining one will require some research and extra effort on your part. Ask a senior member to help you investigate and approach groups like the American Legion, VFW, Rotary, etc. (CAP does not offer individual scholarships to NCSAs, at least not at a national level. However, CAP does subsidize each activity to keep costs at a minimum for all cadets.) To keep transportation costs down, you may be able to carpool with another cadet. Even if a cadet from your squadron is not attending the activity, the activity director can provide you with the full roster of cadets and one may live nearby. <p><i>This is a good time for cadets to ask any questions not answered during the presentation.</i></p>
EVALUATION INSTRUMENT	<p>SURVEY CADET INTEREST IN NCSAs</p> <p>Ask cadets to raise their hand if they are want to attend any of the activities. Depending on the group size, ask some or each of those cadets to state the activity they like and briefly explain why it interest them.</p>
SUMMARY	<p>National Cadet Special Activities are a great way to test drive a career, have fun, and put your leadership skills and aerospace knowledge into practice.</p>
REMOTIVATION & CLOSING	<p>There's something for everyone in the NCSA program. If you are serious about choosing a good future for yourself, take advantage of the opportunity to explore a career you think you're interested in. When you go home tonight, invite your parents to join you in surfing through the NCSA videos available on the web.</p>